

REMARKS

Claims 14-23 and 26-32 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicants' representative thankfully acknowledges that claims 14-23 are allowed. Claims 24 and 25 has been cancelled and thus are no longer pending. Claims 26, and 29-32 have been amended herein. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested since they remove issues in the event of an appeal, do not require further searching, and/or place the subject application in condition for allowance. Particularly, Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 26-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To place the application in condition for allowance, claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 25, and claims 27-32 have been amended to depend from claim 26. A complete listing of claims can be found on pp. 2-5.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 25 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scheibel et al. (U.S. 6,212,240). Applicants' representative respectfully submits this rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of the subject claim.

II. Objection to Claims 26-32

Claims 26-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants' representative respectfully submits this objection to claims 26-32 should be withdrawn and the subject claims allowed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 26 (from which claims 27-32 depend) has been amended to include all the limitations of independent claim 25, and thus it should be allowable as asserted in the Final Office Action dated April 24, 2008. In view of the foregoing, applicants' representative respectfully requests this objection of claims 26-32 be withdrawn and the subject claims be allowed

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [QUALP693USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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